

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BLANTY 01752 281820Z

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-10 RSC-01 DRC-01 /031 W

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R 281230Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BLANTYRE 1752

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFSP, ASEC

SUBJ: TERRORISM

PRETORIA FOR RSO; DEPT FOR BRADFORD AF/EX

REF: STATE 249033

1. UNDER EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES WE DO NOT BELIEVE MARINE SECURITY GUARD UNIT (MSG) IS NEEDED IN MALAWI. FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTORS CONCURRED IN OCT 1973 THAT PRESENT AND FORESEEABLE SECURITY SITUATION IN MALAWI DOES NOT REQUIRE ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT OF USG RESOURCES WHICH MSG WOULD ENTAIL.

2. MALAWI MAINTAINS FOR ITS OWN REASONS TIGHT INTERNAL SECURITY AND BORDER CONTROL MEASURES. ARABS ARE NOT PERMITTED ENTER COUNTRY AND CITIZENS OF COMMUNIST COUNTRIES ONLY IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES. INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION IS TRANQUIL AND GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE WELL DISPOSED TO U.S. POLICE FORCE IS EFFICIENT AND ARRANGEMENTS ARE IN EFFECT FOR PROMPT ADDITIONAL PROTECTION TO EMBASSY IN CASE OF NEED. MALAWI'S STRONG ANTI-TERRORIST ATTITUDE IS WELL KNOWN AND SHOULD SERVE AS DETERRENT. FOLLOWING SUPPRESSED HIJACKING ATTEMPT IN 1972 PERPETRATORS SENTENCED TO ELEVEN YEAR JAIL TERMS MAXIMUM PERMITTED BY LAW. LAW SUBSEQUENTLY CHANGED TO PROVIDE FOR LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

3. IN SPRING OF 1973 SPECIAL MALAWI YOUNG PIONEER GUARD DETAILED TO EMBASSY ON INITIATIVE OF PRESIDENT BANDA. AFTER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BLANTY 01752 281820Z

THREE AND HALF MONTHS OPERATION DISCONTINUED. PRESIDENT BANDA

INFORMED AMBASSADOR IN JULY GOM HAD REVIEWED SECURITY SITUATION, REINFORCED MEASURES AT BORDER ENTRY POINTS AND DECIDED GUARD DETAIL NO LONGER REQUIRED. EMBASSY HAD REACHED SAME CONCLUSION. GOM AGREED IMMEDIATELY TO CONSULT WITH US AND TAKE PROTECTIVE MEASURES SHOULD THREAT SUDDENLY DEVELOP.

4. REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO ASSIGN MSG COULD BE MISUNDERSTOOD BY GOM AND CAUSE COMPLICATIONS IN OUR RELATIONS. GOM WOULD JUDGE NATURE OF THREAT IN MALAWI DOES NOT WARRANT SUCH ACTION. IN ADDITION, THERE WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS MAGNIFIED BY START OF IN-STAGES MOVE TO LILONGWE.

5. WE WILL KEEP SECURITY SITUATION UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW AND PROMPTLY ADVISE DEPARTMENT SHOULD CHANGES OCCUR MAKING ASSIGNMENT OF MSG ADVISABLE.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
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30 JUN 2005

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